

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2017

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th St NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

As you proceed with the initial phases of renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), we are writing to you to express our support for prioritizing strong domestic content government procurement policies, also known as Buy American, during ensuing renegotiations. Specifically, we request that the Administration prioritize that any section on government procurement to include language to allow Buy American laws to be fully enforceable and not abrogated by NAFTA.

As you know, the current language of NAFTA forces the federal government to consider bids from Mexico and Canada when making procurement decisions and prevents the full application of Buy American laws. Specifically, Chapter Ten of NAFTA currently requires all NAFTA countries to give non-discriminatory national treatment to firms in the other signatory countries. These international firms are required to be held at the same preference as domestic firms. Although Buy American statutes require the federal government to give preference to American made products, NAFTA makes full compliance with this law impossible and prevents the federal government from bolstering domestic manufacturing.

Buy American laws ensure that hard-working Americans' tax dollars are spent on products that are made domestically and stimulate local economies. It is vital that our trade agreements are negotiated to allow domestic content preferences. Strong Buy American laws support manufacturing jobs, decrease the trade deficit and support the Administration's "Buy American, Hire American" initiative.

With NAFTA renegotiation priorities currently being debated, we ask that the Administration support Buy American laws in its negotiation objectives and throughout the renegotiation process. This will enable the federal government to spend tax dollars domestically to support jobs and manufacturing. We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you on this important issue in the future.


Sincerely,



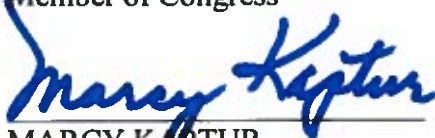
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Member of Congress




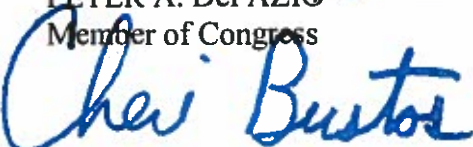
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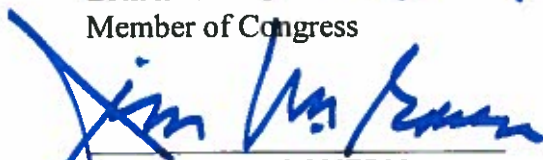

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